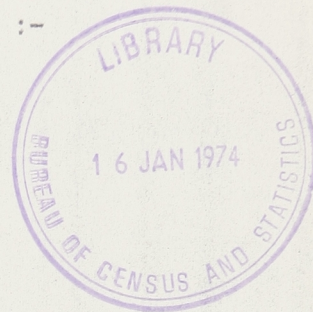


Confidential until released for publication as under :-

Evening Papers .. 6th June, 1938.
Morning Papers .. 7th June, 1938.



RETAIL PRICES - MARCH QUARTER 1938.

Food and Rent (All Houses) "A" Series (Table 1).

These indexes (with base 1000 in 1911 for the six State capitals) for the towns of Queensland in the March Quarter of 1938 were :- Brisbane 1443, Toowoomba 1394, Rockhampton 1371, Townsville 1507, Bundaberg 1339, Charters Towers 1266, and Warwick 1242.

From December quarter 1937 to March quarter 1938 there were increases in all towns but Warwick where there was a small decrease of 0.16 per cent.. The percentage increases were - Brisbane 0.28, Toowoomba 1.60, Rockhampton 1.33, Townsville 0.67, Bundaberg 1.67, and Charters Towers 4.03.

Compared with March quarter 1937 the Brisbane index decreased 0.14 per cent..

The lowest point reached by the "All Houses" index in the depression years was 1199 in March quarter 1933, the subsequent increase to March quarter 1938 being 20.35 per cent..

Food and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) "B" Series (Table 2).

Index numbers for March quarter 1938 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State capitals) were :- Brisbane 832, Toowoomba 804, Rockhampton 820, Townsville 891, Bundaberg 766, Charters Towers 738, and Warwick 703.

From December to March there were small rises in all towns except Warwick where there was a small decline.

The Brisbane index was 0.36 per cent. above March quarter 1937 and 9.47 per cent. above March quarter 1931.

"All Items" - "C" Series (Table 3).

Index numbers for March quarter 1938 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State capitals) were :- Brisbane 846, Toowoomba 841, Rockhampton 849, Townsville 895, Bundaberg 821, Charters Towers 829 and Warwick 780.

Besides food, groceries, and rent (of 4 and 5 roomed houses), the "C" series index includes clothing, footwear, drapery, household utensils, fuel, light and other miscellaneous items of household expenditure. Percentage increases in the index numbers for all towns between December quarter 1937 and March quarter 1938 were :- Brisbane 0.24, Toowoomba 0.24, Rockhampton 0.35, Townsville 0.56, Bundaberg 0.98 and Charters Towers 0.85. In Warwick the index declined 0.38 per cent.. In Brisbane food and grocery costs were practically the same in the two quarters as also were the costs of the Miscellaneous group of items. Rent increased 0.85 per cent. and Clothing 0.25 per cent..

Compared with March quarter 1937 the Brisbane "All Items" index has risen 1.20 per cent, there being increases in Rent (2.08 per cent.), Clothing (4.23 per cent.) and Miscellaneous (0.64 per cent.). There was a decrease of 0.83 per cent. in the cost of Food and Groceries.

In March quarter 1938, the Brisbane index was 13.25 per cent. above that for March quarter 1933 when the index was 747 - the lowest point reached in the depression years.

Judged on the "All Items" index prices and rents are 7.74 per cent. below the 1928 level.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in March quarter 1938 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane :-

City	All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane ..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba ..	19.11	18.11	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 2
Rockhampton	1. 0. 1	1. 1. 1	17. 7	1. 0. 6
Townsville ..	1. 1. 2	1. 2. 1	1. 0. 5	1. 0. 4
Bundaberg ..	19. 5	1. 1. 1	14. 4	1. 0. 3
Charters Towers	19. 7	1. 1. 7	11.10	1. 0. 7
Warwick ..	18. 5	19. 0	13. 7	1. 0. 1

Comparison of Commonwealth and States Basic Wages.

In the following statement the present State Basic Wage of £4. 1. 0 in Brisbane is compared in the first column with the amounts required to purchase the same amount of commodities in the other capitals. The second column shows the actual State Basic wages and the third the actual Commonwealth Basic wages in the capitals. All comparisons are on the basis of March quarter 1938 index numbers.

Capital	Equivalent of £4. 1. 0 in Brisbane a.	State Basic Wage b.	Common- wealth Basic Wage c.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane ..	4. 1. 0	4. 1. 0	3.15. 0
Sydney ..	4. 6. 2	3.19. 0	3.19. 0
Melbourne ..	4. 4. 4	d.	3.17. 0
Adelaide ..	4. 4. 1	3.14. 0	3.15. 0
Perth ..	4. 3. 7	3.14.11	3.15. 0
Hobart ..	4. 4. 9	d.	3.16. 0

- Based on "All Items" index "C" Series.
- Current Rates.
- Corresponding to March quarter "court" index numbers with the addition of the special loadings.
- No State wage actually declared but follows Commonwealth rates to a large extent.

The basic wages are supposed to provide for a family of a standard size which varies according to different Courts. In Commonwealth awards the family is man, wife and 2 children; in Queensland and South Australian awards, man, wife and 3 children; in Western Australia, man, wife and 2 children; and in New South Wales, man, wife and 1 child, but child endowment of 5/- a week for each additional child is provided in that State.

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BRISBANE.

2nd June, 1938.